

WE CLAIM:

1. In a method of producing elastic cuffs for resultant garments from precursor garments, the steps comprising:

a) applying necking tension to the precursor garments to neck a cuff area of the precursor garments to a first width in a first direction of the precursor garments, the cuff area of the precursor garments being extendible to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;

b) affixing an elastic material to the cuff area while at the first width;

c) removing necking tension from the precursor garments with the elastic material thereon and causing the web to assume the non-necked second width at areas outside the cuff area having the elastic material thereon; and

d) whereby the elastic material holds the cuff area of the resultant garments at a dimension narrower than the second width.

2. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the step of affixing an elastic material to the cuff area further comprises applying a pre-elastic when the precursor garments are at the first width, and treating the pre-elastic to become an elastomeric while the precursor garments are at the first width.

3. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the precursor garments comprise a backsheet web layer.

4. The method according to Claim 3 wherein precursor garments further comprise a topsheet web layer.

5. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the precursor garments comprise an assembled diaper lacking only the cuff area.

6. The method according to Claim 3 wherein the backsheet comprises material selected from the group comprising: neckable nonwovens, neckable films, neckable laminates, or combinations thereof.

7. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the elastic material is untensioned when applied to the precursor garments, whereby it merely holds the necked material at the first narrower dimension thereby resulting in a flat cuff area.

8. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the elastic material is applied under tension thereby gathering the precursor material and providing a doubly expandable cuff area with a first stage expansion taking out the gathers, and a second stage expansion expanding the material of the garment body.

9. The method according to Claim 1 further including applying a precursor elastic to the cuff area and treating the precursor elastic to become elastomeric while the cuff area is at the first width.

10. The method according to Claim 9 further including treating the precursor elastic with heat.

11. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the cuff area is a leg cuff area.

12. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the cuff area is a waistband area.

13. In a method of producing selectively elastic areas in a web suitable for garments, the web having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the steps comprising:

a) necking the web to a first width, with width being measured in the lateral direction, the web being expandable to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;

b) affixing an elastic material to a selected area of the web when the web is at the first width; and

c) removing necking tension from the web with the elastic thereon and causing the web to assume the second width at areas outside the selected area of the web, and whereby the elastic material holds the selected area of the web at a dimension narrower than the second width.

14. In a method of producing elastic waistbands for resultant garments from precursor garments, the precursor garments having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the steps comprising:

a) applying necking tension to the precursor garments to neck a waistband portion of the precursor garments to a first width in the lateral direction of the precursor garments, the waistband portion of the precursor garments being extendible to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;

b) affixing an elastic material to the waistband portion while at the first width;

c) removing necking tension from the precursor garments with the elastic material thereon and causing the web to assume the non-necked second width at areas outside the waistband portion having elastic material; and

d) whereby the elastic material holds the waistbands of the resultant garments at a dimension narrower than the second width.

15. In a method of producing elastic leg cuffs for resultant garments from precursor garments, the precursor garments having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the steps comprising:

a) applying necking tension to the precursor garments to neck a leg cuff area of the precursor garments to a first width in the longitudinal direction of the precursor garments, the leg cuff area of the precursor garments being extendible to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;

b) affixing an elastic material to the leg cuff area while at the first width;

c) removing necking tension from the precursor garments with the elastic material thereon and causing the web to assume the non-necked second width at areas outside the leg cuff area having elastic material; and

d) whereby the elastic material holds the leg cuff areas of the resultant garments at a dimension narrower than the second width.

16. An absorbent disposable garment having an nonrugose, ungathered, and unshirred cuff area of a first material, the first material having an untensioned elastomeric second material thereon.

17. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 16 wherein the cuff area is a waistband.

18. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 16 wherein the cuff area is a leg opening.

19. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 16 wherein the cuff area is expandable by 25% of its original dimension.

20. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 16 wherein the cuff area is expandable by 50% of its original dimension.

21. An absorbent disposable garment having an nonrugose, ungathered, and unshirred cuff area of a first material, the first material having an elastomeric second material thereon of sufficiently low tension so as to not cause gathering and shirring of the first material.

22. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 21 wherein the cuff area is a waistband.

23. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 21 wherein the cuff area is a leg opening.

24. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 21 wherein the cuff area is expandable by 25% of its original dimension.

25. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 21 wherein the cuff area is expandable by 50% of its original dimension.

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